

GLOBETROTTERS



MASS COMMUNICATION INSTRUCTOR Jacquie Lamer and Mass Communication Assistant Professor Fred Lamer at The Great Wall in Simatai, China, in summer 2006 (top left) JACQUIE RIDES THE streets of Maastricht, Netherlands, in summer 2007. (top center) JACQUIE AND FRED visited Sillamäe, Estonia, in summer 2007. (top right) FRED WITH A local sheepherder in Bulgaria in summer 2004.

Faculty couple spends spare time abroad

By Shane Sherwood
Senior Reporter

Some people have dreams to visit many countries throughout their lifetime. Two Northwest faculty members are living that dream.

Mass Communication Assistant Professor Fred Lamer and his wife, Mass Communication Instructor Jacquie Lamer have visited more than 35 countries over the course of 70 trips abroad.

Fred and Jacquie even married abroad, in a small northern village in Scotland.

The Lamers travel twice a year, during the summer and in the winter because of their teaching careers, Fred said.

"One of the reasons I chose this profession is the flexibility of my schedule," Fred said. "This allows us to take time to travel. If we were only given two weeks vacation, it wouldn't work out."

Every country they've visited is unique,

but Jacquie and Fred said China is the most interesting. The couple spent about a month there and appreciate the culture's different customs.

"China is exotic and different. Their range is so different," Fred said. "Range is not just in the different language spoken. It also involves their culture and methods of transport."

Jacquie ran into a slight setback in China, picking up the wrong luggage in Hong Kong.

"But that can happen anywhere," she said.

Although traveling anywhere has some fallbacks, whether it's the actual traveling or the planning, but not anything major, Fred said.

"There have been only a few glitches in

our travels," Fred said. "We've missed a boat by one day because of the time difference."

A little history

Fred attended Wayne State University in Detroit, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Jacquie attended Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Where have they been?

Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Slovakia, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Scotland, Sweden and Poland are also among the countries visited by the Lamers.

Because of the Lamers' passion for other cultures, they don't consider themselves tourists, but as travelers.

"A tourist goes on tours and visits the monuments," Fred said. "A traveler does research in the history and the culture and goes to other countries with an open mind."

Among the places the Lamers traveled, they list Western Europe better for travel than Eastern Europe.

"We think this because of intrigue and new economic and political systems emerging in Western Europe," Fred said.

See LAMER on A6

COMMUNITY PROFILE

photo by jared clark
chief photographer

GROWING UP IN Kansas City's inner city, radio disc jockey Brian Brooks has overcome hardships and is now making his way up the corporate ladder of the radio industry. A senior at Northwest, Brooks splits his time as DJ for X106 in Maryville, Molly's Party Club, and Hot 103 Jamz in Kansas City.



Maryville's main music man

Local disc jockey kept his faith, found success

By Dominic Genetti
Community News Editor

For Brian Brooks, it's not the music he loves in the broadcasting business, it's the audience.

With two quick clicks of his mouse, he gets the party started every Thursday for patrons at Molly's Party Club.

From that moment, on he owns the night as the club's DJ, playing music for anyone and everyone.

"The DJ controls the vibe, the DJ controls the party," Brooks said.

A DJ at X106, an on air personality at Hot 103 in Kansas City and the Thursday night DJ at Molly's, Brooks has achieved success in the

field he loves and holds a deep passion.

"Broadcasting was the one thing that always influenced every part of my life," he said.

Getting to where he is now developed out of a rough inner city lifestyle in Kansas City, but through the inspirations of his late father, Brooks found determination to do something with his life.

"My father was my third brother; we were so close, he knew everything about me and I knew everything about him," Brooks said. "He always told me 'Brian, do something that you would love doing and you would look forward to going to every day.'"

Through his father, Brooks learned the values of life and religious faith despite hard times.

"We didn't have that much money," he said.

See MUSIC on A6

NORTHWEST FOUNDATION

Regents question 'Village' concept

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

(This is the third part of a three-part series on the proposed "Village at Northwest" concept.)

A lack of information about the proposed "Village at Northwest" leaves the University's governing board with many unanswered questions.

The "Village at Northwest" concept was presented at the Jan. 25 Board of Regents meeting.

If it moves forward, a new urban area will be built on the 66 acres the Northwest Foundation owns on the west side of Icon Road. The Foundation will be the organization that heads up the project.

Even though the regents voted to support the "Village at Northwest" concept, they still have some concerns, Board President Bill Loch

said.

In its December meeting, the board implemented a plan to increase University enrollment by 20 percent over the next five years. At the same time, they gave the Northwest Foundation their approval for the land in question to be used, Loch said. When they approved the measure the regents were not yet aware of the idea for the "Village at Northwest" concept, Loch said.

He is concerned the concept could hinder the expansion plan.

"The land was purchased for the idea that if the University was going to expand in the future that it was not land locked," Board of Regents President Bill Loch said. "I really feel that was the case and I as well as some of the other members of the board, I think they were caught of guard of the size of the project."

See VILLAGE on A6

AREA ELECTIONS

White to challenge Espey for Nodaway County sheriff

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

Plattsburg Deputy Chief of Police and Maryville resident Darren White announced that he will run for the position of Nodaway County Sheriff in the upcoming elections this November.

A graduate of Missouri Western State University's law enforcement program, White, 48, also has experience in emergency medicine, business and public service in Nodaway County. It's those skills that White said, if elected, will tie together to serve him well in the position of sheriff.

"I've worked in public service in Nodaway County for over 20 years. My background goes back to the days of working as a paramedic for the Nodaway County Ambulance and at the same time working for the sheriff's department," White said. "So, I have a long history of public service around here, and I think that this is a great



Darren White
Nodaway County
Sheriff Candidate

place."

Having highly trained, dedicated officers serving all of Nodaway County 24-hours a day is a primary item on White's agenda for campaigning for sheriff.

"You're never going to stop crime, you're never going to prevent crime if you're not there, if you're not out trying," White said. "And the people that are committing the crimes in this county need to know that there is somebody there that's watching them

all the time."

Fiscal responsibility is another issue White is concerned with.

"I have not only the public service background, but I have a business background and I think that even though the sheriff's department and law enforcement in general is a service to the public, you do have to look at it as a business," White said. "We have to be really fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the county."

See SHERIFF on A5

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Safety procedures reviewed again

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

After a gunman opened fire at Northern Illinois University last week, many institutions began reviewing their procedures.

The same holds true for Northwest.

"We're always reviewing and updating our policies on a yearly basis and we also tweak them when huge events happen," Campus Safety Director Clarence Green said.

When Northwest finds out about a tragedy at another institution, the University reviews the policies it already has in place. Officials also follow the news that comes out of the incident and checks it against their own policies, Student Affairs Vice President Jackie Elliot said.

"It's just a good time to check and balance, you know, this happened here, this is how it happened, here's our policies, here's our procedures," Elliot said. "How would we have handled that, what would we have done?"

Officials use the check and balance procedure because it is beneficial, Elliot said.

The Threat Assessment Team meets weekly to talk about incidents and students of concern on campus.

"The one place students should feel safe is where they're getting their

education," Elliot said.

Everyone should always be on high alert, Elliot said.

"We can never become complacent or numb," she said. "We've always got to be vigilant, we've got to be paying attention, we've got to continuously be assessing our policies and our procedures and our protocols."

A text message system may be put in place by this fall, Green said. Video surveillance may also be installed in building entrances as well as throughout the buildings.

Officials use reports such as the Virginia Tech report as well as the one Northwest conducted on itself with the government for emergency planning, Green said.

"The only way to prevent these types of incidents is early warning, threat assessment type information," he said. "So you're trying to gather all that information you can so you can, so you can make an early warning, early diagnosis of what's going on."

At the faculty's spring trimester meeting, they received training on how to deal with emotionally disturbed individuals, he said. Officials are now going around to departments on campus providing training.

"It's very tough because we're trying to create a culture of preparedness, and you know it takes time to build a culture," Green said. "I feel that we're headed in the right way."

Drag Show scheduled

Common Ground is sponsoring a Mardi Gras Drag Show from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Admission is \$5 or \$3 with a can of food.

This show is for mature audiences only.

For more information, contact Monique at (660) 541-1890.

SOAR application deadline approaching

There will be an information meeting for those interested in participating in SOAR (Summer Orientation Advisement and Registration) at 8 p.m., Feb. 27, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Tower View Room.

Applications are due at 5 p.m. Feb. 29. They are available in the Advisement Assistance Office in the Administration Building.

For more information, contact Leslie Chandler at 562-1952 or e-mail Lchandler@nwmissouri.edu.

Horticulture Club hosts plant sale

The Northwest Horticulture Club will hold its plant sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 26 and 27, on the J.W. Jones Student Union first floor.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Northwest to hold culture conference

The University will hold an understanding culture and how it affects crisis communication conference from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, on the J.W. Jones Student Union third floor.

Dorothy Pennington from the University of Kansas will be the keynote speaker.

A pasta bar will be available for \$12. For tickets and more information, contact Brittany Keeshan at 562-1827 or e-mail s255670@nwmissouri.edu.

Feast of Languages set for March 1

The Communication, Theatre and Languages Department will host its annual Feast of Languages at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 1, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

This year's theme is "Greetings from Around the World." Languages featured in the event include Spanish, French and American Sign Language.

A performance by the KC Salsa Band will celebrate all three languages.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and senior citizens, \$5 for children ages 2 through 5. Children 2 and younger are free.

For more information, contact Michelle Allen at 562-1279 or e-mail Mallen@nwmissouri.edu.

Bands to perform

The Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony will perform at 7 p.m., Saturday, in the Charles Johnson Theater.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Living Well, Being Well-Balanced

A message from the Northwest Wellness Center

By Judy Frueh, RN, WHNP, and Vince Shisler, Operations Coordinator

What can you expect from your visit at the Northwest Wellness Center? Our staff is dedicated:

1. To acknowledge and greet you with eye contact and a smile. It is important to us that we acknowledge your presence and welcome you with a smile as soon as you enter our facility
2. To demonstrate compassion and active listening. We are committed to understanding your concerns.
3. To ask you what we can do for you. It is important that we communicate with you so we know exactly how we can help you. There are no "dumb questions" when it comes to your health and well-being.
4. To stay fully present when we are with you. When you are at the Wellness Center you can expect us to fully focus only on you and your needs.
5. To communicate the process and time expectations. It is important for you to know the process at the Wellness Center. By doing this, you will have an idea of what to expect and when to schedule a time that works for you.
6. To follow up with you. We take pride in making sure all your needs have been met. Our follow up procedure helps us know we met your needs.
7. To lead with kindness and stay positive throughout the interaction with you. You can expect us to be encouraging and caring.

This is a message from the Northwest Wellness Center. For more information about this topic or to learn about our services for students, please call ext. 1348.

We are the specialists in college health.

CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Groups prepare for upcoming election

By Destinee Biesemeyer
Missourian Reporter

In most circumstances, a simple sketch of an elephant or donkey would send people running in the opposite direction. However, during this historical election, student involvement has become a key component.

The College Republicans and Young Democrats are taking political apathy and turning it into action.

College Republican advisor Mark Jelavich explains the importance of campus political clubs.

"It's an outlet for students interested in politics. We debate issues and get people to become active," Jelavich said.

Young Democrat Adviser Dan Smith acknowledged one potential nominee for the republicans, Senator John McCain, and two for the democrats, Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama.

The polls show the democrats at a near split between Clinton and Obama. This rift has rippled from national campaigns to college campuses.

"There is a division within campus Democrats between the two candidates and there is somewhat a divide within [club] members," Smith said.

This division, Smith said, only reiterates the importance of voting.

"The biggest falsehood is that 'Oh, it doesn't matter; it doesn't affect me.' What happens with this election is going to be big," Smith said.

Despite previously low turnouts, both republican and democrat clubs agree that political excitement is growing.

"Students seem a lot more interested than before and that is a good sign," Jelavich said.

The College Republicans and Young Democrats agree that positions surrounding the Iraq War and health care are dramatically different.

"We are up to \$300 million on the war. One party wants to stay there a long time and the other wants to get out. And there is the Supreme Court. There will be at least one, maybe two appointments in the next four years," Smith said.

In addition, Jelavich questions what the government should be doing economically and if health care should be funded by government spending or private sector.

No matter one's own position on the issues, there are several ways to get involved.

"At the state and local level, there is a lot of these organizations can do," Smith said.

Both organizations anticipate participation in the election campaigns and having speakers come in the fall. They also encourage those who are interested to attend a meeting.

In reference to the recent primaries, Smith highlighted the importance of voting.

"Margin of victory in every county was less than the number of students we have," Smith said.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

'Monologues' deemed success

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

As far as they know, a feat like Friday's has never happened.

The "Vagina Monologues" opened to a full house last Friday night.

So full, in fact, there weren't enough chairs for everyone who attended.

All three performances over the course of last weekend went well, co-director Natalie Waterman said.

In total, there were 100 chairs set up, but some of Friday night's audience had to sit on the floor.

Chairs were also almost full for Saturday and Sunday's performances, Waterman said.

Last year was Waterman's first performance in the "Monologues."

She was reluctant about auditioning last year. Waterman decided to participate because the performance is for a good cause.

In total, the cast raised \$2,733.41 from the show.

Before she came to Northwest she was involved in a production to raise money for breast cancer research after her friend was diagnosed.

"I think it's a really great performance and really I would just encourage everybody to at least see it once 'cause it's just really enlightening for male and female," Scott said.

However, she is hoping the "Monologues" stick around at Northwest as long as they are needed.

"I hope that Northwest ... keeps it going and supporting it and that more girls keep getting involved," Estell said.

Senior Tara Estell noticed flyers advertising the audition her freshman year and became intrigued.

She went to find out what it was about and decided to participate, Estell said.



THE HOUSE WAS packed for opening night of the Vagina Monologues, Friday Feb. 15 at The Westley Center. Narrator Elyzabeth Robertson (left) introduces Actor Lori Maranell who portrays an older woman and recites her monologue.

she kept, Waterman said. Senior Amanda Scott performed in her fifth "Vagina Monologues" this year.

"I just kept doing it (participating) because you know I believe in the cause so much and it just really drew me in," she said.

When she began participating she recalls the show starting off with a low budget, but since then she has watched it expand, Estell said.

"Every year, it's grown and more people know about it and we've gotten more support on campus," Estell said. "And I just keep hoping that that happens."

"I mean ultimately I hope that there is no 'Vagina Monologues.' That hopefully, the end product is that we don't need the 'Vagina Monologues' because there isn't violence against women and we don't need you know to raise awareness about it,"

Tara Estell, senior performer

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COMMUNITY

LOCAL POLITICS

Democrats to choose two area delegates

By Katie Luers
Missourian Reporter

Democrat voters will choose delegates who represent their choice for presidential candidate during the Nodaway County Democrat Convention next week.

The convention is scheduled for Thursday Feb. 28, at the Nodaway County Courthouse. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The democrats of Nodaway County voted closely between the two presidential candidates senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama Feb. 5. Out of the four delegates assigned to Nodaway County, each candidate earned two delegates because of the close vote.

Democrat Central Committee President Mike Killingsworth prefers this process of fairly dividing the delegates. In a winner-take-all system, the winner of the popular votes wins all the delegates of an area.

"It's nice if you're the winner, but not if you're second place," Killingsworth said.

Delegates elected at this convention will attend two other conventions in the state, Missouri Democrat Communications Director Jack Cardetti said.

Both attend the convention for the Sixth Congressional District on Thursday, March 27, and the Missouri Convention on Saturday May 10. Delegates chosen from these larger conventions represent the state at the National Convention in Denver Aug. 25 to 28.

All democrat registered voters of Nodaway County who voted in the most recent primary are allowed to run for the position, Killingsworth said.

A total of eight delegates will be elected at the convention including alternates. Each candidate receives one female and one male delegate with respective alternates according to Missouri statutes.

"Politics is about timing and opportunity," Lager said. "Time-wise, if Matt Blunt had not vacated his seat, Sarah would've been running for re-election. So the opportunity for an open seat would not exist."

Less than a week later, Lager still didn't waste words when he promised the same focus on fiscal conservatism and better funding for higher education displayed in his tenures first in the Missouri House of Representatives, then the Missouri Senate.

Lager clashed with House Speaker Rod Jettin in November 2005 over the direction of the state's budget. Lager warned Jettin the state might face a financial shortfall if a freeze on state government didn't take place. Jettin removed Lager as budget chairman shortly after. Jettin declined an interview request from the Missourian to discuss Lager's campaign through spokesman Barry Bennett.

"Rod and I continued to work with each other during my days in the House and now my time in the Senate," Lager said. "I anticipate that he'll continue to be active in Republican politics and the public policy process. I'll continue to work with him in the future just as I have in the past."

"I am running for treasurer because I believe that every dollar of taxpayer money that is spent or invested should be done so in the best interest in the taxpayer."

"I've been a fiscal guy, that's been my issue of focus. I believe there's nothing we do in the house or senate every year that's more important than our state budget. It's imperative that we operate with fiscal strength and fiscal responsibility."

Lager promised not to let potential clashes with legislators compromise his ideals. They've clashed before, he said, and they might have to do it again.

"There's no doubt that in the past that where I believed we should go and where others wanted to go were different," Lager said. "There have been times where that's put me at odds with maybe those in our party who wanted to go in a different direction, but that's just the kind of person I am."

He also gave off no apprehension about sticking to his established principles,

showing his views differ from those in the legislature.

"From the first day that I've been elected, I've been elected by the people to serve the people," Lager said. "I'm not in Jefferson City to do what some party people want me to do or just to get along with the party. I'm down there to fight for what I believe is right and what I'm going to fight for everyday is the taxpayers of the state."

Lager also pledged his continued support to Missouri's 529 college savings process, which allows parents to invest through the state in funding their children's post-high school educations.

"Higher education costs have continued to skyrocket," Lager said. "And more importantly now than ever we need to make sure that people begin planning early for their post-high school needs."

Arnold, Mo., Mayor Mark Powell represents just one potential challenger to Lager becoming treasurer. He has campaigned so far behind the declaration that "The state of Missouri ... needs to have professionals managing its funds."

Powell might have a point. As a financial professional with both Commerce Bank and United Missouri Bank, he handled \$40 million portfolio of assets and investments on a regular basis for a combined 25 years.

That much experience managing personal assets - and that he "owes no favors" to

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SCHOOL FUNDING

School district's educational foundation aids various projects

By Micheal Clements
Chief Reporter

Help is wanted at Maryville public schools.

The Maryville R-II Educational Foundation board of directors encourages alumni to lend a helping hand to the school district to bring the highest educational standards to town.

The Foundation, created to upgrade Maryville's school district, will help fund projects through donations from the community and alumni.

The Foundation started in the fall of last year, Foundation board member Amy Nally said.

"I think it will be good for the district, I think it's a great way to use your money to get better education and also to help improve our facilities," Nally said. "We want to stay as up to date as possible with our technology and what we can offer to the kids to help them with their education."

Two donations have been made to the Foundation since its creation. The donations are tax deductible.

"There's several different areas you can contribute to show your Spoofhound pride," Nally said.

Donators can specify what their donations go towards, including athletics, classroom grants, technology and fine arts.

A performing arts center is a major need for the high school, Maryville High School Athletic Director and Foundation board member Paul Snow said.

"Right now, we're just like a lot of other high schools, where our stage is in our gym, there's no place for our plays and our musicals to happen except for there," Snow said. "All our stuff is done at the University ... we really need a performing arts center."

Many home baseball games are played at Boal Park, he added.

The baseball field needs a new outfield fence, better seating and would benefit from lights, Snow said.

The high school may benefit from field turf on the football field as well.

Classroom grants through the Foundation go to teachers for what they need in their classrooms. The Foundation is planning on providing up to 25 of the grants worth \$500.

"We're not going to stop just because people don't think it will happen," Snow said. "It will happen, it just might take longer than what some people think."

The board of directors is planning on getting people involved in work weekends for some projects, Snow said.

"If we get the parents, the kids and the staff, the coaches all working together, nothing but good things can come out of it," Snow said.

The school district requests alumni to send contact information of any alumni to the school to build a contact database, Snow said.

The contact database would be used to send newsletters to alumni.

STATE ELECTIONS

Lager confident entering treasurer race

By Sean Comer
Political Reporter

A long road that might lead to the Missouri treasurer's office in November awaits Sen. Brad Lager. So far, he hasn't minced words promising to drive it the same every other one he's traveled.

The republican state senator from Maryville officially announced his candidacy for treasurer last Saturday. Current Treasurer Sarah Steelman abandoned a planned re-election bid to compete in a now wide-open race for governor.

"Politics is about timing and opportunity," Lager said. "Time-wise, if Matt Blunt had not vacated his seat, Sarah would've been running for re-election. So the opportunity for an open seat would not exist."

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CITY BRIEFS

Community Blood Drive set for March 4

The next community blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 4 at the United Methodist Church located at 102 N. Main St.

Please bring photo identification such as your driver's license. Cholesterol tests will be performed on all units of blood collected. All blood through the Community Blood Center benefit local hospital patients.

For medical eligibility questions, call (800) 245-7035.

Kawasaki donates to Mozingo Lake Patrol

Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Maryville is coming to the aid of Maryville Public Safety Department with the donation of an ATV to be used by the Mozingo Lake Patrol.

This recent donation is one of several significant contributions toward that effort since the inception of the Lake Patrol 10 years ago.

interest groups and lobbyists - gives Missourians every reason to trust him with the state's financial fate, Powell said.

"I can certainly say that I have had significantly more professional experience than the senator has, having spent 25 years in the banking business, 10 years owning my own investment business and my wife and daughter own another retail business in Jefferson County," Powell said. "I've had no experience as a politician on the state level, which would benefit me because I owe no favors to any elected officials and I owe no favors to any lobbyists or political action committees."

Lager doesn't want for confidence himself, either.

"I believe that my background as a small-business owner and as an entrepreneur and a guy who's gotten up every day working hard to serve the public ... I believe that I have every criteria necessary to be a great treasurer," Lager said.

With the U.S. economy facing a recession, Lager vows to keep Missouri's funds invested in Missouri banks.

"I want to make sure we put Missouri money in Missouri banks, thereby allowing for investment in the state of Missouri," Lager said. "I believe if we do that, if we invest in ourselves, hopefully we can mitigate the challenges of an economic slowdown."

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OUR VIEW

Early warning signs need to be addressed

A week ago, a graduate student made international headlines when he opened fire in a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University, killing five and wounding 17.

Just like the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, the latest shooting rampage reminds those of us in the Northwest community how fragile our university communities are.

Our hearts go out to the Northern Illinois University community. Rather than ponder what the shooter's intentions were, the Northwest Missourian would rather give our readers sources to turn to if they know someone who is headed down a wrong path.

If you know of anyone who may be in need of guidance there are plenty of on-campus resources that can help. The Counseling Center can be reached by calling 562-1220, you can also reach Campus Safety at 562-1245.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Ya' know what makes me mad? Ya' know what makes a patriotic American's blood boil? Ya' know what is causing this cultural rift in our society? Hypphenation. No, not like the punctuation, but rather I am referring to hypphenated Americans. You know what I mean: African-American, Mexican-American, Italian-American, Asian-American and so on.

If you turn on the television, you can't help but see hypphenation in action. We have an "African-American Presidential candidate, Mexican-American voters, African-American voters, and so on. It's now even gone so far as to segregate people by religion (i.e. Muslim-Americans). It's political correctness run amok. Well, excuse me if I have your hyperactive sensitivities but, hell, I thought we were Americans - Period, Capital A. No Hypphen. End of sentence. Call the cab, the fat lady has sung.

Is this what is come to? Has the Great American Melting Pot gotten so full that we don't know who we are? Are we all just a bunch of mutts competing in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show? Do we need pedigrees to validate our standing among all the other mutts? People are so sensitive to political correctness that we are now just a bunch of dogs running around on proverbial leashes. Is this what our society has come to?

Now, don't get me wrong, I love dogs, but I'd like to think that we're at least slightly more evolved than that. Slightly more intelligent than the average mutt. Are we? Or are we Supermutts, a type of dog that has no particular pedigree but thinks it does. "If I look like a bulldog and bark like a bulldog, I must be a bulldog, right?"

The problem with the Supermutt attitude is that it perpetuates segregation and racism. We're all in a big dog show, right? We have to have categories, don't we? Heaven forbid we might actually expect all of the Supermutts to compete in the same category. How can we expect a lowly Beagle to compete against a beautiful Springer Spaniel or a stately Doberman? That wouldn't be fair would it?

Fair? Have we forgotten that this is the United States of America, the greatest and freest country in this planet? A country where you can be anything you want, if you're willing to study and work hard, regardless of your heritage. Just because people from your heritage are called a minority based on demographics, does not mean you are a minor person. It does not mean you are less capable than the rest of the Supermutts. Work hard and you shall receive. If you want fair, look in your local paper for the State Fair or a circus.

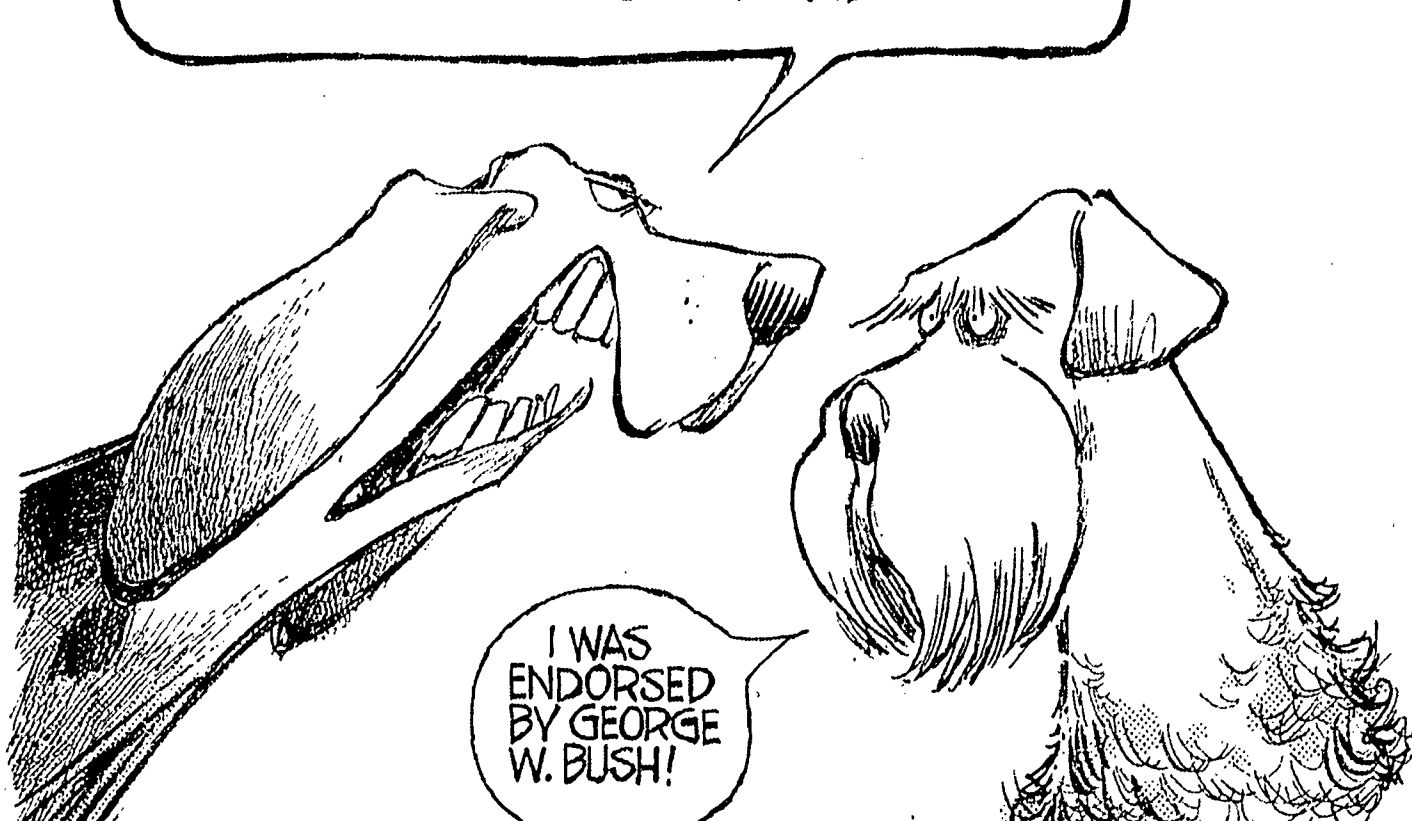
We must always remember that we are Americans. To claim that we are some variety of hypphenated American only serves to dilute our value and segregate us from the rest of the pack. If we want to end segregation and racism, we must stop referring to ourselves and other people as anything other than Americans. People are welcome to embrace their culture, but if they want to dilute themselves down to anything less than fully American, and be some variety of a hypphenated American Supermutt, there are plenty of places in the country regularly. This is a time for serious people and we don't need people who feel the need to qualify their particular type of Americanism with an adjective. We need Americans... Period.

Oh, yes...in case you missed it... the lowly Beagle won the Westminster Show this year!

Jeff Drake
Maryville, Mo.

(The Letter to the Editor has not been edited or changed. It appears in print as it was submitted to the Northwest Missourian.)

A BEAGLE! A BEAGLE
WINS TOP DOG IN AMERICA! WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOU OUT THERE?



I WAS
ENDORSED
BY GEORGE
W. BUSH!

COMMENTS FROM NWMISSOURIANNEWS.COM



(The following comments have not been edited or changed. They appear in print as they do on the Web site.)

In response to "Your Man strays from the norm"
Anonymous
posted 2/15/08

Brilliant! I have always seen those who claim to be "alternative" being people who put more time into "fitting out" than most everyone else who tries to "fit in."

In response to "Heart to heart, hand in hand"
Anonymous
posted 2/14

This was a great story to read, especially on Valentine's Day. Makes you really think about organ donation.

Anonymous
posted 2/14
What a wonderful article about two beautiful little girls! It helps reader to realize how important organ donation is.

MY VIEW

Obama's message misses mark: Yes we can, but should we?

As Barack Obama begins to separate himself from Hillary Clinton there is an ever-growing belief that he may actually pull this off.



Sarah York and Jeff Kanger
Contributing Columnists

Although it is far too early for Obama to claim victory over the Clinton machine, it is fair to say he is out-performing her lately.

Clinton will have her last-stand states in the weeks to come, but make no mistake about it — February was Obama's month.

Because Obama dominated the headlines, those of us that watch the news and follow the election have

heard his campaign mantra of "Yes We Can" and "Change We Can Believe In."

Most people leave Obama rallies with a sense of hope and newfound passion in our political system and process.

Simply put, people feel optimistic about things when they are done listening to him, and that is a good quality to have as he positions himself to be the Democratic front-runner.

That's right, we referred to Obama as the current Democratic front-runner, by this time Clinton should be enjoy-

ing her third or fourth piece of humble pie.

Although Obama's messages of hope and optimism are refreshing, they are off the mark. We know, criticizing a political poster could be journalistic suicide, but our point is well-founded.

As Americans, we shouldn't need Obama to tell us we can do something. The question throughout our more recent history has never been whether or not we can do something, but should we.

President John F. Kennedy played the "Yes We Can" card when he made it known we were going to get to the moon and win the space race.

There were some serious skeptics when he made those proposals, but we did it — America did it. At that point America no longer had an outer limit, anything was possible.

We knew we could do anything so our energy was focused on assessing if we should do it, and that is why Obama is missing the mark. He needs to start talking a little more policy and get a little more specific so America can decide if we should support his agenda.

So, when you listen to Obama give his stump speech and people are waving their "Yes We Can" posters, ask yourself if we should.

Should we repeal portions of President Bush's tax cuts, in essence raising taxes? Should we immediately withdraw our troops from Iraq despite the success of the latest troop surge? Should we elect the least-experienced candidate?

We hope that Americans already realize that we can. Assuming Obama gets the nomination, the only question left will be whether or not we should.

MY VIEW

For staffer, killers like NIU shooter are cowards, no analysis needed

Last Thursday,

a 27-year-old gunman walked into a building on the University of Northern Illinois campus and killed five innocent people before turning the gun on himself.

It was yet another highly visible shooting in a tragically public location.

Obviously, this is not the first time the country has confronted this. Some people feel sorrow and remorse, some feel apathy. My first impulse is anger. It may not be healthy, but I'm going to act upon it. Only I'm not going to go postal, I'm going to write.

No psychobabble or analysis here. I'm not searching for how society has wronged these cowards or how we all should have seen the warning signs. Just good, old-fashioned saying what I think needs to be said.

You'll notice that I didn't mention any of the cowards' names. No need to

glorify these heinous acts. My hope is that this article makes it to the eyes of just one of the deplorable punks that glorify and idolize these cowards on Web sites and chat rooms across the Internet. I hope they see that there are plenty of people like myself who don't feel sorrow for the way society treated these people — who believe they took the easy way out and find solace in the fact that while some may be looking for answers and meaning to these actions, we know the truth: these people are nothing more than cowards.

Then I will have accomplished what I set forth in writing this article.

You see, millions of people face adversity every day. Thousands of girlfriends break up with their boyfriends, hundreds of people are fired from their jobs.

A good friend of mine, Jeremy Latham, never knew his biological father. His biological mother died when he was just eight. Did he grow up with

a sense of betrayal from society? I'll tell you what he didn't do. He didn't grab an automatic weapon and go on a pity-party across some campus, taking the lives of innocent people who had no involvement whatsoever in the tragedies of his life.

That's because Latham has character and courage.

Instead, he looked adversity in the face and cracked it in the jaw. He became a police officer, protecting and serving the lives of innocent people. He went and served his country in Afghanistan, defending the freedoms that millions in this country hold dear. And now he enjoys life with his wife and three children, with nothing more than a "How do you do?" and a smile.

Part of this is irresponsibility from the industry that I'm trying to break into. Some might identify me getting beat up in the seventh grade or getting laid off from my job as warning signs that I might need help. I see it as adversity.

People face problems every day. Yet when they persevere, there isn't any nationwide coverage of life's little victories. No pat on the back for the guy

who goes to a job he hates so he can support his family. But a few nutcases go off in a school in Littleton, Colo., and their names and faces are plastered all over every media outlet in the country.

Predictably, the problem seems to have mushroomed from there. Those kids are martyrs to a few troubled teens just itching for justification to take their problems out on somebody else. The only difference is there is no difference: we all face adversity, we all have been humiliated, ridiculed or rejected at some point.

To those few who would consider the coward's way out, I would say this: the only ones who will celebrate your life and mourn your death are the ones who will soon be sharing that little spot reserved for you in front of your maker. You can try explaining your actions to Him all you want, only I'm guessing that your troubles, your being ridiculed or your being wronged isn't going to sway Him in your favor. Millions overcome, why not you?

You might as well prepare yourself for a nice long stay somewhere warm. Extremely warm.

CAMPUS TALK

What movie should win the Oscar for Best Picture?



"I think that 'Juno' should win, because it had really good music and it showed how kids can take responsibility for their actions."
Kendra Grupe
Instrumental Music Education



"I think that 'Michael Clayton' should win best picture, because I thought it was cinematically well done."
Dan Johnson
Humanities



"I think that 'Juno' should win, because I thought that the script was stellar. I also thought the music was amazing."
Elise Jones
Computer Programming/IDM



"I think that 'There Will Be Blood' should win the best picture. Everyone in my family said that it was a great movie altogether and well put together."
Shawn Hornick
Management Information Systems



"I think that 'Juno' should win, because ... the characters had a great language of what kids use today. I also thought it had a great soundtrack."
Sarah Youngbauer
Accounting

MASS COMMUNICATION

Students participate in war simulation

By Sara Kendall
Missourian Reporter

They didn't enlist, but they got to experience war first hand.

A select group of student journalists got to experience reporting in a war situation.

Ten journalism students from Northwest spent four days at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., with the officers of the Command and General Staff College. They participated in a computer simulated war scenario exercise.

These students were Ryan Smith, Sean Comer, Dominic Genetti, Lindsay Jacobs, Chris Lee, Alex Lepert, Elizabeth Sexton, Megan Tilk, Evan Young and Brittany Zegers.

The exercise, which started about five years ago, teaches military officers how to coordinate everything that happens during a military operation, Mass Communication Assistant Professor Doug Sudhoff said. Their exercises deal with things like administering medical help and delivering supplies. Officers also learn how to deal with the media in a war situation, Sudhoff said. This is where the student journalists from Northwest played a part.

The 100 participating officers were split into groups of 30 or 40, and the journalists were embedded into each group, Sudhoff said.

The reporters spent each day gathering information. They conducted interviews, took photos and captured video. Then the students wrote and edited their stories to be submitted by 6 p.m., Sudhoff said.

At the end of the four days, the students got a certificate and a special coin for participating.

Sudhoff organized the trip. The Command and General Staff College contact him when they need journalists to participate. This is the fourth year stu-



NORTHWEST STUDENTS CHRIS Lee and Evan Young prepare to interview Maj. Andrew Topsoff for a television story at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

dents from Northwest have participated. Sudhoff wanted his students to work outside their comfort zone.

"The military has their own language, they have specific goals and they are disciplined. It is very different from the typical civilian atmosphere," Sudhoff said.

The time spent at Fort Leavenworth proved to be an eye-opener for some.

Senior Chris Lee gained knowledge of how the military works. His perception of those in the military changed.

He always thought those who joined the Army or Navy were people who went directly into the military after high school.

"I was wrong. Most of the officers there were getting their masters degrees," he said. Lee also was led to believe that the military was apprehensive to interact with the media in a war situation.

"They wanted to get their stories out and we helped them," he said.

He would like to experience reporting in a war situation, but he wouldn't be able to do it for two or three months like reporters do today in Iraq, Lee said.

"They are the brave ones. I wish I had another chance to do the program again. It was more than what I expected," he said.

Read commentary from the embedded journalists at nwmissourianews.com

UNIVERSITY AWARD

Service Honor Roll announced

By Lisa Houtchens
Chief Reporter

Students who give back to the community and campus are being honored.

Northwest made the President's Service Honor Roll in the special achievement award category. The University was recognized with distinction for the services the students participated in each year.

This was the first year Northwest applied for the "President's Higher Education Community Service Award" and won with distinction, Student Affairs Vice President Jackie Elliott said.

The award was implemented in 2006 and is the highest recognition that an institution can achieve for its service and civic learning, said Amy Nally volunteer programs and service learning coordinator.

One of the reasons Northwest won the award was because of the focus on service learning.

"We are really focusing more on service-learning aspects to put into the curricular and co-curricular areas," Nally said. "This recognition will help launch our programs that we are looking at for next year and the years to come."

Northwest was one of four schools to be honored in the state. Missouri State University in Springfield, Rockhurst University in Kansas City and the University of Missouri Kansas City are also on the honor roll. Overall 528 schools nationwide were recognized across the nation.

The selection factors for the award granted to Northwest were based upon the total of students involved with service activities and academic service learning, Elliott said.

Last year about 850 students participated in many campus and community service projects. That number does not include the Greek organizations or specialized organizations, Nally said.

Service projects are open to all students on campus. Some of the activities include valet parking for Encore events, setting up the winter wonderland park display, Beautifying Residences Using Student Help (BRUSH) and alternative spring break, Elliott said.

The award is all about the students and their involvement on campus, in the community and their willingness to participate, Elliott said.

"Students need to take pride," Elliott said. "They earned it."

One of the students that contributed to the award is junior Melissa Gigit. She has participated since her freshman year, Gigit said.

"I think loving on people is what I was designed for," Gigit said. "I love helping people and seeing an improvement."

She sees this award as great honor to Northwest, Gigit said.

SHERIFF: Family enjoys small town atmosphere

Continued from A1

White also stated that whatever technology is available to Nodaway County, the sheriff's department needs to take advantage of it.

Her husband echoed the sentiment.

"I like the fact that I can live here and I can raise my family here," Darren said. "When my girls go to school, you know everybody that's in their class, you know, really, almost everybody that's in the school. Everybody's on a first name basis, and I like that small town feeling."

The Whites have three children, Caitlyn, Bailey and Anna. It's his love for the county that makes him committed to improving the county, Darren said.

"I choose to make Nodaway County my home because I do recognize what a great place it is to be," Darren said. "And that's why I'm here, I love living here."



JOHNATHAN L. MEYER
ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

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Johnathan L. Meyer received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Northwest Missouri State University, Juris Doctorate, and Masters of Law in Taxation from University of Missouri - Kansas City

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MUSIC: Brooks traded athletics for airwaves

Continued from A1

"We had to get one thing and we had to do without the other. I think saving was a problem for us, I think we didn't do a good job of saving, maybe that's why we broke all the time."

Above all, it was faith Brooks learned from his father to hold onto the most to be a success.

"He made me realize things that you're not supposed to realize early on," Brooks said. "He didn't force it on us, but he made it seem like without God, there's nothing."

Until the age of nine, Brooks lived with his mother and later moved in with his dad and step-mom.

In addition to not having a lot of money, Brooks and his siblings found an annual setback after moving in with their father.

"From 1994, till about 2001, we moved every year to a different apartment or house," Brooks said. "We got a lot of body building exercises out of that, because we were moving couches and beds all the time."

Times were tough, but through loyalty, sacrifice and being thankful, Brooks said they made it through.

"I stayed loyal to my family," he said, "and I said to them, 'Hey, we're going to do this together.'"

At first sports was the probability for his future, but his goals began to change during high school.

"I always thought that I would be a football player when I was younger, but I knew it was a bigger world outside of Northwest High School in Kansas City," Brooks said.

Standing at a medium height, Brooks, 22, has the full figure of a football player, but it's his passion for music and broadcasting that to the world that overcame his sports career.

"I think I could've played at a smaller school somewhere, but I just figured it wasn't worth it," he said. "Plus I didn't love the game like I love broadcasting."

Brooks made his way to Maryville to study broadcasting at Northwest, before arriving he knew what he wanted to do.

"I knew what my major was the first day I was here and I think that's an



BRIAN BROOKS KEEPS X106 listeners grooving during one of his shifts at the Northwest radio station. He wants to keep entertaining music lovers in Maryville even after graduation.

advantage," Brooks said.

He began working at X106, the campus radio station, in 2004 and by summer 2007, Brooks landed an internship with Hot 103.

It had been a rough year for Brooks, just one year earlier in 2006, his father's hero-died after falling ill.

"It was kind of hard, but with my faith in God, He always pulled me through," Brooks said.

Passion for broadcasting grew larger during his Hot 103 internship, especially after his radio alias was born.

"I came up with this name, 'Brian Shyne,'" he said. "I like to shine, I like to be that bright spot in your day. I wanted to be something different."

The name didn't go over well with coworkers until the name "Brian B. Shyne (Shining)" was coined.

"I said 'Oh my God,' that was the best thing I heard in my life," he said. "I want to copyright 'B. Shyne,' because I Google my name, I Yahoo my name and nobody has it."

The opportunity to be the DJ at Molly's came last year and since being hired, Brooks has entertained to many packed houses.

"I like to build (my music) up, I don't like to explode everything real early," Brooks said. "I like to play older (music) first and then progress, let the dance floor build up and then let it explode."

The only hard part is turning an empty dance floor into a full dance floor.

"That is a tough thing to do because

not everybody likes the same (songs), so it's about sacrifice at first, you have to sacrifice one part of the crowd to get another part of the crowd on the floor," he said.

Male or female, black or white, Brooks said he wants the music to appeal to everyone, so even if an odd artist request comes along, he'll play it to make the audience happy.

"I get a lot of requests for Fergie and all that stuff and I cannot stand playing (it)," he said.

Classic Requests for Michael Jackson or Prince seem to come frequently, and Brooks will honor them from time to time, even though he's not too fond of them.

"I like Michael Jackson as an artist, I listen to him a lot, but that's not a song you play at a club or party or something," Brooks said. "When I play something out of the ordinary, if you look in the DJ booth, I'm down looking at the computer cause I don't want to be seen..."

Top pop songs are saved for the latter part of the evening to keep the crowd on the floor, but when it comes to certain songs and dance routines like "Crank That" by rap artist Soulja Boy or "The Cupid Shuffle" by hip-hop artist Cupid, the floor is always packed.

Hate the song or love the song, when the people hit the floor, that's when Brooks knows he's doing a good job.

"It's like hitting a home run," Brooks said. "That's the thing you live for if you're a DJ. When people run to the dance floor, home run baby, it's out of the park."

He plans to graduate in December 2008, until then he plans to continue entertaining Molly's crowds and listeners in radio land.

Molly's owner Mick Hoskey is grateful for Brooks' work and experience to keep good music playing for the many patrons every weekend.

"There's a difference between good music and good dance songs and he's able to identify which songs are good dance songs and then play those at appropriate times," Hoskey said. "A good DJ is a good asset to have and Brian does a really good job of playing to the crowd."

LAMER: Trip to China 'exotic'

Continued from A1

"Quite frankly, traveling in Western Europe is cheaper than traveling in Eastern Europe."

Sometimes the cheaper countries to travel are the best countries for travel, Jacques said.

"Estonia, for example, is cheaper than Germany, a lot cheaper," Fred said. "We've been to Germany, and we like Germany, but there is an element in Estonia better for travel, and there are not many tourists or travelers in Estonia. Most people don't think, 'Oh, gee, I'm going to take a trip to Estonia or Bulgaria.'"

Traveling to other countries is not about going to the places where other Americans will be, Fred said.

"We don't go to a foreign country to pal around with Americans," Fred said. "We want to extend our language to them to allow us to interact with other cultures. We prefer more obscure places over the less obscure."

Because of their scheduling, Jacques and Fred spend holiday seasons abroad. In December, Jacques and Fred went to Budapest, Hungary, and in December 2006, went to Berlin.

"The Coca-Cola train is big in Berlin around Christmas time," Fred said.

Both Jacques and Fred agree that group travel doesn't provide as much of an adventure as individual travel.

"Fred mentioned the word adventure, but that word might be misleading, because it's not like we are type A personalities and must experience new things," Jacques said. "We both agree that we learn more about ourselves in a new environment. When you spend a little time in a new environment, you eat new foods, meet new people with new perspectives. We talk to a lot of people as often as you can."

Interacting with others as they travel allows them to be more balanced when they return home. It gives them a new level of appreciation, Jacques said.

As for the treasures the United States has to offer, Fred said there would be a more appropriate time to visit those destinations.

"Of course we've traveled in the United States, but on a comparatively limited scale," Fred said. "For example, I've never been to the northwest section of the country because I figure when I'm too old and feeble to handle long distance travel, I'll focus in North American geography."

VILLAGE: Ideas still preliminary

Continued from A1

"It's basically going to take land that the University in the future had probably intended to build buildings on, you know classroom buildings or facilities," Loch said.

In the last meeting, the regents voted to pursue the idea of the "Village at Northwest," but they want to see plans and costs, Loch said.

"I think the board has concerns as anyone that we still have land available so that during this time that we're going to expand, you know, we would have property to do so," Loch said.

When the Foundation purchased the land, it did so to advance the University, Institutional Advancement Vice President Orric Covert said.

Some of the first ideas for the land were relocating Horace Mann Laboratory School, the baseball field and making residence halls and additional classrooms, he said.

"So all of those things were possibilities for utilizing this property when the University and foundation discussed purchasing it," Covert said.

"With the new urbanism, there's a number of ways I could see it helping advance the University," Covert said. "There would be

the potential of some additional University classroom space out there. There would be a potential for student residence in this development, potential for student employment opportunities."

These are still preliminary ideas, Covert said.

"We ... benchmarked one institution and they included I think three or four classrooms in their new urbanism project and they schedule and hold classes over there on a regular basis," Covert said.

Loch said support for the "Village at Northwest" may grow once more information is released.

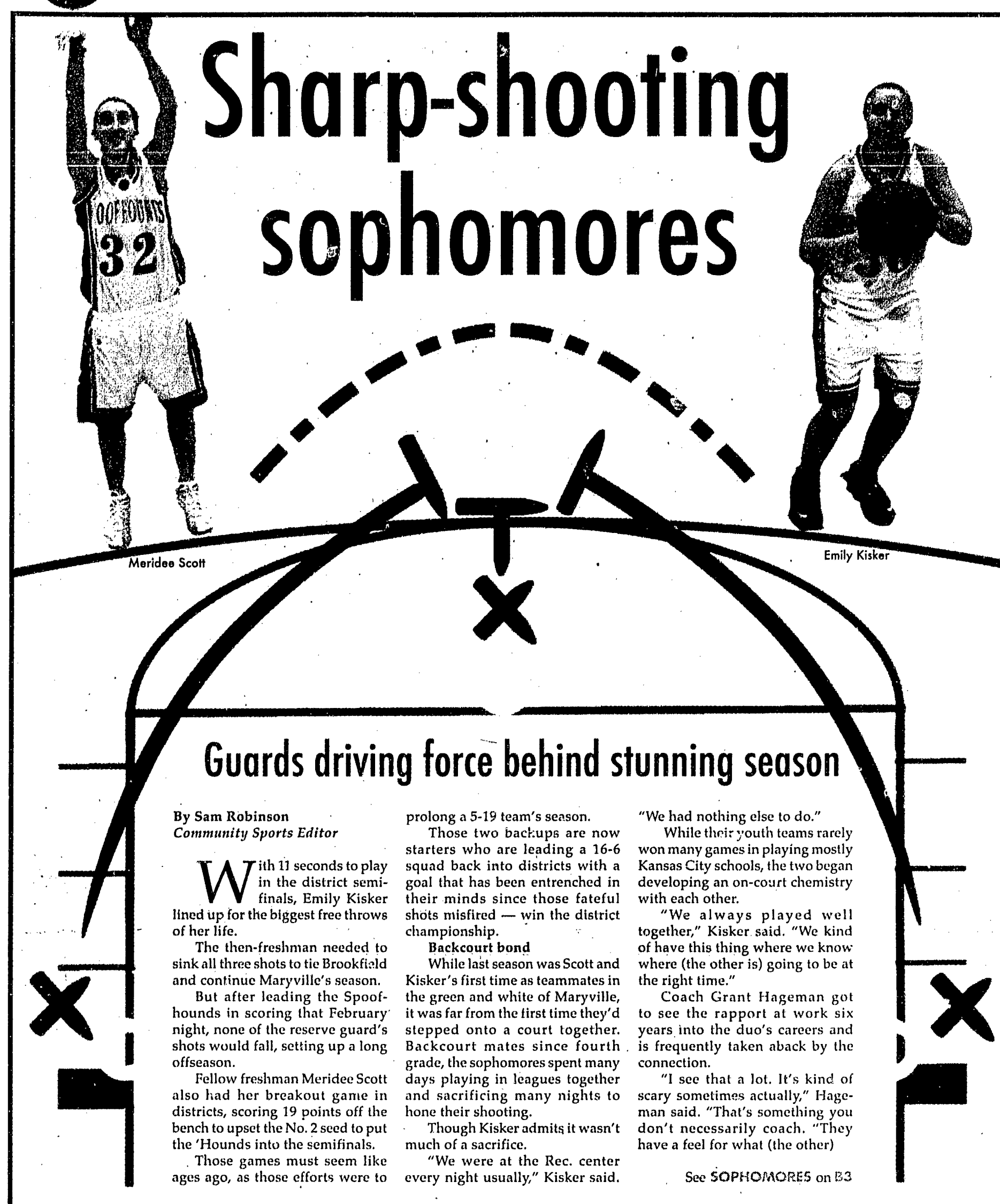
"I think that once the drawings are done or the concept is finished then a person will be able to get a better understanding and the public will be able to get a better understanding of what's actually going to be involved," Loch said.

The Board of Regents is also concerned the "Village at Northwest" is a change to an already set, 15-year master plan to expand and improve campus, Loch said.

"The University has a master plan and the past boards have always tried to ... work with that master plan and suddenly we have this huge change in what our scope of our master plan is and that's very concerning," Loch said.

SPORTS

MHS GIRLS' BASKETBALL



Sharp-shooting sophomores

Meridee Scott

Emily Kisker

Guards driving force behind stunning season

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

With 11 seconds to play in the district semifinals, Emily Kisker lined up for the biggest free throws of her life.

The then-freshman needed to sink all three shots to tie Brookfield and continue Maryville's season.

But after leading the Spoofhounds in scoring that February night, none of the reserve guard's shots would fall, setting up a long off-season.

Fellow freshman Meridee Scott also had her breakout game in district, scoring 19 points off the bench to upset the No. 2 seed to put the Spoofhounds into the semifinals.

Those games must seem like ages ago, as those efforts were to

prolong a 5-19 team's season.

Those two backups are now starters who are leading a 16-6 squad back into districts with a goal that has been entrenched in their minds since those fateful shots missed — win the district championship.

Backcourt bond

While last season was Scott and Kisker's first time as teammates in the green and white of Maryville, it was far from the first time they'd stepped onto a court together.

Backcourt mates since fourth grade, the sophomores spent many days playing in leagues together and sacrificing many nights to hone their shooting.

Though Kisker admits it wasn't much of a sacrifice.

"We were at the Rec. center every night usually," Kisker said.

"We had nothing else to do."

While their youth teams rarely won many games in playing mostly Kansas City schools, the two began developing an on-court chemistry with each other.

"We always played well together," Kisker said. "We kind of have this thing where we know where (the other is) going to be at the right time."

Coach Grant Hageman got to see the rapport at work six years into the duo's careers and is frequently taken aback by the connection.

"I see that a lot. It's kind of scary sometimes actually," Hageman said. "That's something you don't necessarily coach. They have a feel for what (the other)

See SOPHOMORES on B3

MHS WRESTLING

Archer, Merrill medal in state finish

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

Maryville coach Joe Drake said he wanted his team to pick up where it left off last year.

His Spoofhound wrestlers did far more than merely pick up from last season's state performance, as this year, they more than doubled their team total from that meet.

Maryville scored 55 points at Mizzou Arena last weekend, and had two wrestlers earn all-state honors with third place finishes in 119-pound Dannen Merrill and 160-pound Tanner Archer.

While the two podium finishers were the same as last season, many more wrestlers won in the first round and in wrestlebacks, compared to only the two medalists last year.

"The performance was much improved from last year," Drake said. "The two boys who wrestled on Saturday (Archer and Merrill) had a tremendous day. We were a little disappointed on Friday. We thought maybe we'd had a couple more wins along the way. But, overall, our performance as a group was very good."

Merrill (37-2) won his first two matches before running into a wall in the form of Whitfield's Ryan Mango (45-0), who would go on to win the state title. Mango beat Merrill in a 10-4 decision in the semifinals.

"It was a good, hard-fought match," Merrill said. "The best wrestler won. He just has more experience and more mat time."

Merrill, who placed fifth last year, won the consolation bracket by pinning both of his opponents. The two-time all-state grappler easily won his finals match over South Harrison's Jacob King, pinning him in 57 seconds.

"It was just a matter of going out there knowing that, 'OK, you lost one to a good kid. You're not always going to win.' I was pleased with going down there and placing higher than I did last year. You always want to go down there and try to win it, but knowing that I lost to the state champion is all right."

Archer (31-8) hadn't won a match in state his first two years, let alone win a medal. After pinning his first two opponents, Archer ran into nearly the same scenario his younger teammate did, as he lost a 10-4 decision to Marcelin's Bryce Cripp in the semifinals.

But Archer rebounded, winning his first wrestle-back match to earn a consolation finals berth against Lawson's Ian Swarts, a wide receiver on Lawson's state champion football team.

See STATE on B3

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NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tappmeyer shakes up coaching staff

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

In 20-plus seasons as the Northwest men's basketball coach, Steve Tappmeyer has never let an assistant go.

That changed in early February when assistant coach Jerome Haden was removed from the Bearcat bench, and subsequently reassigned to the athletic director's office.

Coach Steve Tappmeyer said the move was made because of "philosophical differences" between the two coaches and that the decision was mutual.

"It was a deal where you feel like players and coaches need to be on the same path, and agreeing with the same philosophies," Tappmeyer said. "If it's not there, it can become an obstacle. Who's right or wrong probably doesn't matter as much as who's running the program type of thing."

Haden, in his second year with Northwest after spending five years as an administrative assistant at Wichita State, coached his last game for Northwest Feb. 2 at Southwest Baptist. Northwest lost that game 79-72 and since then, Northwest has gone 4-0 entering Wednesday's game at Washburn.

Tappmeyer admitted the situation was a distraction for the team, but wasn't the reason for the team's sudden upsurge or the 2-3 record to begin the conference season.

Graduate assistant Austin Meyer, who is in his second season as a coach after a four-year playing career, is in charge of substitutions. Graduate assistants Nathan Gamet, Chad Van Riesen and student assistant Luke Crump have split up the rest of Haden's duties.

"We got four guys who are really qualified, and are doing a good job. I think we're fine now," Tappmeyer said.

Guard John Hawkins said he has no ill will toward Haden.

"It's unfortunate, definitely. But he's a good guy and a good coach," Hawkins said. "He'll always be a part of us. But, we have to go on. It's not like we can stop playing."

Haden could not be reached for comment.

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

New week brings women renewed optimism

'Cats clinch conference tournament bid with win

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

What a difference a week makes.

Last week, the Northwest women's basketball team was in the midst of a four-game losing streak. Now, the Bearcats have won two consecutive games (as of press time), and face a key stretch that could determine their postseason fate.

Northwest needs one win to clinch a MIAA tournament bid, and if the 'Cats finish the final three games undefeated, they could be in the mix for a possible regional tournament berth.

"We're in good spirits as a team," focused Mandi Schumacher said. "We're not too focused on the conference right now. We're looking towards that regional tournament. If we can keep a level head and finish strong, we have a chance to get into the regional tournament."

If the 'Cats complete the season sweep of regionally ranked No. 2 Washburn (check Nwmissourianews.com for Wednesday's recap), it would set up a matchup against Missouri Southern Saturday that could determine MIAA tournament seedings and a potential regional tournament spot.

The Lions are ranked No. 3 in the region, and are 7-7 in the MIAA. Northwest stands at fourth place in the MIAA at 8-6.

"Right now it's important to think about going into these games with nothing to lose," Northwest coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "We don't need to be thinking about any of the implications relating to these games."

One reason for the improved play has been Schumacher's stellar play. The senior center totaled 25 points in each of the previous three games. All three of those performances were a career-high.

"I don't really know what the difference has been," Schumacher said. "The guards have been hitting me well. Also, the guards have done a nice job of hitting shots from the outside, so that has opened up one-on-one matchups on the inside."

Kelli Nelson is the only other player to join Schumacher in double figures during the previous three games. Nelson netted a career-high 31 points last Wednesday against Truman State, and tallied 14 points last Saturday against Pittsburg State.

To get back into the regional tournament mix, Nelson and Steinmeyer agreed a balanced scoring attack is needed.

"Right now everyone needs a little more confidence," Nelson said. "We got a lot back this past week, but our confidence is our No. 1 thing."



NORTHWEST GUARD MEGHAN BRUE drives to the hoop during Northwest's 10-6 points per game. The Bearcats look to extend their winning streak at 1 p.m., Saturday, at Missouri Southern. Northwest lost to the Lions earlier in the season, 65-64 on a last-second layup.

ing me well. Also, the guards have done a nice job of hitting shots from the outside, so that has opened up one-on-one matchups on the inside."

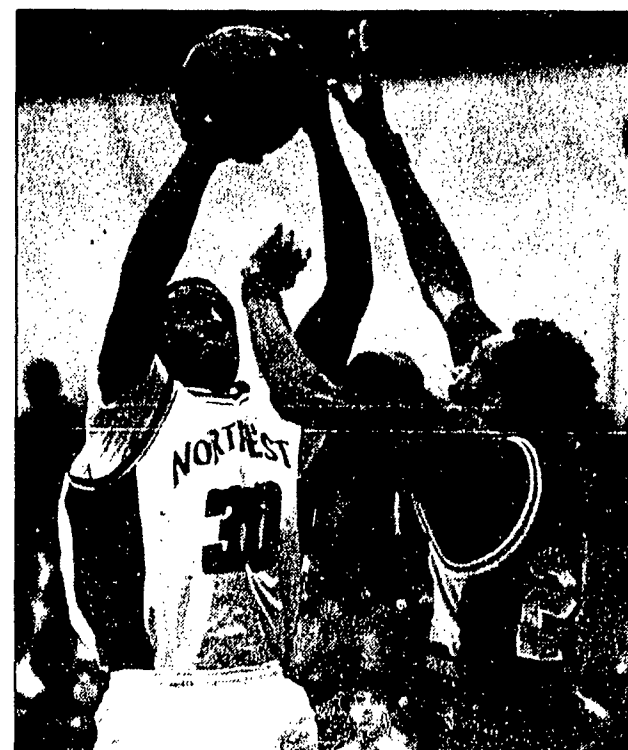
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Check Nwmissourianews.com for Wednesday night basketball recaps.

NW MEN'S BASKETBALL



NORTHWEST GUARD JOHN HAWKINS goes up for a jumper against Pittsburg State. The Bears have won four straight games.

KEYS TO WINNING

Saturday, Northwest travels to Missouri Southern. Southern is second in the conference, one game back of Southwest Baptist, entering Wednesday's games. With a win, Northwest can climb to second in the MIAA. With only a few games left, Northwest has a chance to climb on top of the conference. Here are the keys to winning:

■ In the last meeting, Missouri Southern shot the lights out, shooting more than 55 percent in both halves. Despite the lack of defense, Northwest only lost by four after falling behind late in the game.

■ Both teams are evenly matched underneath and at the guard position. Defense will be the key for Northwest. In three straight games before Wednesday, Northwest has held opponents to less than 50 points.

NW TRACK

O'Brien, Kleine claim first place in MIAA tune-up

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

The MIAA Indoor Track Championships are just around the corner and the Bearcat men's and women's indoor track teams have a little more than a week to prepare.

With that in mind, women's coach Scott Lorek decided to send 14 athletes to compete in the South Dakota's John Dalton Open, an unscheduled event. The results were among his teams' best this season.

Freshman Bridget Kleine and junior Anna O'Brien both came away winners, Kleine in the 400-meter dash and O'Brien in the one-mile run.

O'Brien also joined junior high jumper Halley Carlson with a second-place finish as well.

Despite O'Brien's success, Lorek said she didn't run her best in South Dakota.

"Anna, and she would tell you this, she won, but she didn't run a great race," Lorek said. "Anna can do a lot better. She had some tactical things, which we're working on."

The highlight of the "Cats' weekend was the 400-meter dash where Kleine and junior Audrey Bailey finished first and second, respectively.

"It was good to get last week in to focus on the open four (400-meter), since I won't be running it this weekend," Kleine said.

In the "Cats' upcoming meet, Kleine and Bailey will forego the 400-meter and run only the 4-by-400-meter relay and the open 200-meter in an attempt to break the school record in the relay, Lorek said.

The Prairie Wolf Invitational is the men's and women's final tune-up before the conference meet.

While the women make a run at the record books, the men may welcome back pole-vaulter Brad Cox.

"So far, we haven't had a pole vault mark to even put into the power rankings," men's coach Richard Alsup said. "So, we've got zero points there, and those kind of things can help."

Alsup and Lorek agree that the Prairie Wolf Invitational is important preparation for the conference meet one week later.

The meet is Friday, in Lincoln, Neb.

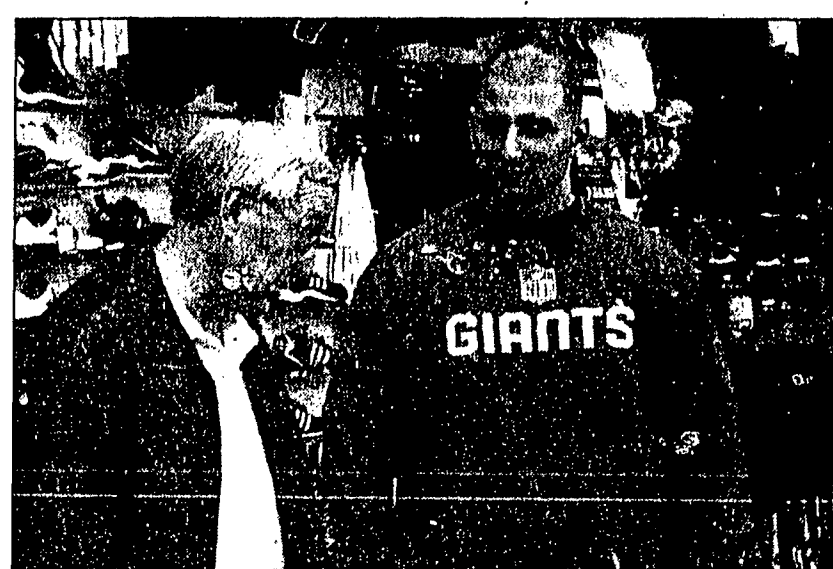
NW FOOTBALL

Q&A with Super Bowl CHAMPION, former Bearcat Dave Tollefson

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

Q: What was the locker room atmosphere after the Super Bowl win?

It's just nuts. It's crazy just trying to get to the locker room. The whole thing is happening on the field, and you're trying to hold on to all your stuff, because you don't want your helmet to get stolen (or) your jersey. And



FORMER NORTHWEST DEFENSIVE LINEMAN Dave Tollefson chats with Northwest head coach Mel Tjerdema as he signs autographs at Jack's Nitch last Saturday. Tollefson is the first former Northwest football player to win a Super Bowl trophy.

then you have to try to get to the locker room, and the fans are going crazy. You know, the whole Super Bowl winning experience is just a wild one.

Q: What does it mean for you to come back to Maryville, a small town, from a big city?

I love it. This place has a lot to do with the position I'm in already. To come back and see all the people that had a big impact

on your life means a ton to me.

Q: You're on the team with some celebrities, Eli Manning, are they like they are in public, or is he different behind closed doors?

Well, Eli Manning is a huge goofball. He painted one of the O-lineman's shoes purple for the Super Bowl. Michael Strahan's the same way. You know, all the guys on our team are a bunch of goofballs.

Check Nwmissourian.com to listen to the entire interview with Dave Tollefson

NW SOFTBALL

First trip outdoors results in 1-1 start

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Last Saturday was the first time the Northwest softball team experienced the outdoors this season. It wasn't for practice or a scrimmage, instead, it was the season's first doubleheader.

The Bears didn't take long getting acquainted with the outdoors, especially from the batter's box. Northwest tallied 13 runs as its split with Lincoln.

A two-run seventh inning propelled Northwest to a 7-6 game one win. Lincoln won the second game 6-5, behind a four-run sixth inning.

Northwest coach Ryan Anderson said it was difficult matching up with a team that had outdoor experience.

"It hurts to practice inside," Anderson said. "But we knew that coming into the game. Hitting-wise, we did decent. We're just behind on the defensive and pitching end."

The "Cats bats totaled three runs in game one's top of the first inning. However, Lincoln came right back in the bottom half of the inning and totaled five runs. The team's combined for seven hits and left five runners on base in the first.

"We came out swinging," Northwest pitcher Cola Krueger said. "As a pitcher, we usually come out a little slower, because it's such an adjustment from being inside to going outside. But I was excited with the way we hit the ball."

Northwest trailed 6-5 entering

the seventh and final inning. Casey Carper singled to open the inning, and then stole second base. Tiffany Carter advanced Carper to third base on a fielding error. Courtney Channell drove in the game-winning run on a single, and Megan Simpson drove in the winning run on a sacrifice bunt.

The "Cats had eight hits, but committed seven errors.

Krueger notched the victory, striking out two and allowing three earned runs.

"We need to continue to get more production from the bottom of the order, but I thought we had good at-bats all day," Anderson said. "Even when we didn't get a hit, we hit the ball hard, and it was just right at somebody."

The "Cats defense committed one error in the second game, but couldn't hold on to an early 5-1 advantage. Northwest totaled seven hits and five runs in the first three innings. In the next four innings, Erin Leslie was the lone "Cat to muster a hit.

Channell managed four hits, including a 3-run homer during the doubleheader. Carper notched five hits, with two RBIs, while Leslie went 4-for-8, with three stolen bases.

"I didn't expect we would do as well as we did hitting," Channell said. "It was good to get outside, and see how we responded."

Northwest returns to action at 12:45 p.m., Saturday, at the Evangel tournament in Springfield, Mo. The "Cats square off against William Jewell, Briar Cliff and Bellevue, before participating in bracket play Sunday.

NW BASEBALL

Baseball off to 0-2 start

By Brett Burger
Sports Editor

The Northwest baseball team's series with Arkansas Tech didn't go quite the way it did last year.

Last season, Northwest took three out of four from the Wonder Boys. Last Saturday, they were swept, dropping both games, 6-5 and 10-0. In addition to Sunday's doubleheader was shortened because of rain.

In game one, Northwest tied the game at five after a three-run seventh inning. A bloop single in the bottom of the seventh secured the win for the Wonder Boys.

Brett Harvel went five innings, allowing four runs on 12 hits. Evan Nickell was tagged with the loss in relief. Ryan Bledsoe led Northwest, going 2-for-5 with 2 RBIs. Nick Pfeiffer went 1-for-1 with a home run and three walks.

In game two, Tech scored all 10 of its runs in the third inning as Northwest could muster only four hits. Joel Epley suffered the loss, allowing six runs in 2 1/3 innings. Creed Kurtz had two hits, while Ben Malick and Trevor Connor each had a hit.

"I thought we were ready to play mentally and physically and we took the field ready to win," coach Darin Lee said.

Northwest returns to Arkansas for a three-game series with Arkansas-Monticello, which is off to an 0-8 start.

The team then travels to Pensacola, Fla., for a three-game series with West Florida. Northwest played West Florida last year, losing all four games as the Bearcats would go on to lose eight straight.

BEARCATS

MEN'S STATISTICS	
Northwest	Opponent
72.2	Points/game 60.0
44.6	Field goal pct. 42.3
35.2	Rebounds/game 31.3
14.0	Assists/game 13.5
35.8	Three point pct. 32.4
13.2	Turnover/game 18.7
30.2	Steals/game 7.0
70.5	Free throw pct. 69.8
1.9	Blocks/game 3.3

CONFERENCE LEADERS	
Scoring per game	Steals per game
1. D. Towns-ESU 19.8	1. S. Bowlin-MSSU 2.39
2. C. Abernethy-ESU 18.2	2. D. Byrd-UCM 2.17
3. J. Grabowski-SBU 16.8	3. O. Hawkins-MSSU 1.91
12. H. Henry-NW 13.1	5. L. Sullivan-NW 1.83
16. L. Sullivan-NW 11.5	7. M. Howard-NW 1.74
	8. A. Peterson-NW 1.72

Rebounds per game	Assists per game
1. C. Abernethy-ESU 10.3	1. D. Towns-ESU 5.27
2. M. Rogers-SBU 8.0	2. B. Burgett-ESU 4.76
2. P. Fandja-TSU 8.0	3. T. Jeffries-FHSU 4.05
7. H. Henry-NW 7.3	

FG percentage	3-pt percentage
1. C. Abernethy-ESU .597	1. D. Farris-SBU .481
2. M. Rogers-SBU .579	2. A. Meile-WU .432
3. V. Atcha-MSSU .528	3. C. Tegmeier-ESU .431
5. H. Hunter-NW .522	4. A. Peterson-NW .443
	10. L. Sullivan-NW .368



NORTHWEST GUARDS MEGHAN BRUE (left) and Kelli Nelson fight over a loose ball during an 86-71 victory against Truman State. Nelson and Mendi Schumacher's 17.7 and 25 points per game respectively, during the last three games, have helped Northwest to two consecutive wins.

WOMEN'S STATISTICS	
Northwest	Opponent
75.4	Points/game 71.4
40.5	Field goal pct. 43.9
38.5	Rebounds/game 39.2
16.4	Assists/game 15.6
30.1	Three point pct. 33.3
15.5	Turnovers/game 20.9
11.0	Steals/game 7.7
70.3	Free throw pct. 75.4
3.2	Blocks/game 3.0

CONFERENCE LEADERS	
Scoring per game	Steals per game
1. M. Stueve-ESU 22.2	1. C. Woods-MWSU 2.73
2. G. Mueller-TSU 21.6	2. E. Souza-SBU 2.43
3. E. Souza-SBU 19.3	3. K. Fleming-UCM 2.30
8. M. Schumacher-NW 16.1	6. L. Williams-NW 2.17
20. K. Nelson-NW 11.5	8. K. Nelson-NW 2.00

Rebounds per game	Assists per game
1. J. Jones-UCM 10.7	1. E. Souza-SBU 4.91
2. G. Mueller-TSU 9.8	2. C. Woods-SBU 4.68
3. M. Stueve-ESU 8.4	3. L. Corker-ESU 4.04
6. M. Schumacher-NW 7.1	8. A. Miller-NW 3.57

FG percentage	3-pt percentage
1. M. Schumacher-NW .587	1. M. Stueve-ESU .485
2. G. Mueller-TSU .558	2. C. Boston-ESU .485
3. T. Pierce-MSSU .513	3. A. Leiker-ESU .444
	7. K. Nelson-NW .373

For recaps of Wednesday's and Saturday's Northwest basketball contests check us out at...

NWmissourian.com

SPOOFHOUNDS

MHS BOYS' BASKETBALL



SENIOR AARON DUEKER had 19 points in 'Hounds' 66-55 win over Cameron. Fourth-seeded Maryville plays 5-seed Plattsburg at 5 p.m., Tuesday, at Cameron in districts.

Tempers flare in senior-led win

By Christopher Woodland
Missourian Reporter

Two Maryville seniors carried their team to victory in a bitter MEC rivalry game Tuesday that saw the football rivalry spill over onto the hardwood.

Seniors Andy Walter and Aaron Dueker combined for 40 points as the Spoofhounds beat Cameron, 66-55.

With four minutes left in the third quarter, Maryville led 31-25 when Cameron coach Kevin Nichols received a technical foul. A six-point "Hound run, and a minute and 20 seconds later, Nichols got another technical resulting in an ejection.

"That's why you got black-balled in districts," Nichols said to the Maryville fans as he left the court.

Some players took exception to the comment. "There's some things you say as a coach and some things you don't," Walter said. "He was trying to make his point, but he was dissin' our football program ... it got me really fired up and really ready to play."

The teams battled back and forth the rest of the way. The Dragons continually fought back from large deficits to close within striking distance. Walter scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, preventing the Dragons from capturing the lead.

"He (Walter) was real vital tonight," Maryville coach Mike Kuwitzky said. "He's

had a stretch over the past four games that's been amazing."

In the game's early stages, neither team managed to gain the edge as the first quarter ended tied at 12. The second quarter saw much of the same. The 'Hounds ended the half on a 10-2 run, giving them a 26-20 halftime advantage.

"We went into half with a six-point lead, and that gave us the confidence we needed to come out in the second half and play well," Kuwitzky said.

The conference win also came on senior night. All five senior players and their parents were presented with gifts during a pre-game ceremony honoring them and their hard work.

"I love this group of five seniors," Kuwitzky said. "They've worked really hard over the summer and everything and really brought this program back to winning ways."

Walter scored a game-high 21 points. Dueker contributed 19, and Seth Staashelm added 11. Sean Skilling led Cameron with 15 points, followed by Brent Seifert with 14, including four 3-pointers.

Maryville also shot 21-of-26 from the line, and 16-of-19 in the fourth quarter. The two teams combined for 24 fouls in the second half.

This wasn't the final home game for these seniors though. They play a JV/varsity make-up game at 5 p.m. tonight at home against Trenton.

The game will be the final tune-up for the 'Hounds before districts begin Monday at Cameron.

SOPHOMORES: Scorers focusing on winning first district title in 5 years

Continued from B1

is going to do on the floor before they even do it. You can tell when it happens and it's neat to watch."

Though the Scott-and-Kisker show would be temporarily put on hold upon entering high school, the delay was short-lived.

Late-season emergence
Maryville's 2006-07 season was nothing short of a nightmare. The 'Hounds suffered through a 2-18 start, enduring multiple seven-game losing streaks and, with the exception of a win over Cameron, failing to come within 15 points of any conference opponent.

Scott's entrance into high school basketball was not what she anticipated. "It was pretty frustrating," Scott said. "I don't know if we had that much team chemistry. I didn't get to play much, and it was hard (when I did) because I didn't really know the girls and how they played."

But, after nine losses in a row, something clicked as the 'Hounds won their final two regular season games. They were still the lowest seed in districts, however.

With Kisker occasionally starting and Scott emerging as a top reserve, Maryville no longer looked like a district pushover.

"We found our identity and having those two in there sure helped a lot," Hageman said. "They did a good job of being catalysts and giving us some energy off the bench. They just really got things going. We became a team that was a little more than one-dimensional."

Scott was the first to emerge as her then-career-high 19 points led to a shocking 54-49 upset of Trenton, setting up a clash with Brookfield.

The 'Hounds trailed by three possessions most of the game against the Bulldogs, but Kisker, who scored a team-high 11, brought them back by going on a 5-0

last-minute run.

Despite rescuing her team from certain defeat, Kisker remembers the three shots she missed rather than the 11 points.

"Don't like to think about that," she said. "I can't take pressure very well, and I knew I just had to tell myself that they're going in and I did, but, they didn't. After that, I knew it was something I had to work on."

Season of the decade
Those missed free throws were the last sign of that 5-19 team, as the 'Hounds have undergone a transformation.

The offense and overall game-plan doesn't resemble last season's. It's now built around overall team speed and the outside-shooting ability of the sophomore duo, who have elevated their games and led the team to a level it hasn't seen for a while.

On opening night, Kisker came out with something to prove, hitting three 3-pointers en route to a career-high 22 points as the team buried Mid-Buchanan 70-39.

A month later, in the LeBlond Holiday Tournament, tourney-MVP Kisker's 15 points sparked the 'Hounds to a 19-1 run, which was enough to take the title over district-No. 1 LeBlond.

Kisker also hit a season-high four treys against Cameron, Tuesday night.

Maryville came within less than 10 points of Smithville and No. 6 Benton, while splitting against Co-MEC champion, Savannah. Its 16 wins more than triple last season's total.

Kisker saw a bright future for her team, but did not expect it this soon.

"We knew we were going to be better eventually, but this big of a change is definitely surprising," she said.

Scott has often been the focal point of

the 'Hounds' offense, as opposing coaches' No. 1 goal usually involves containing No. 32.

Against Class 4's Platte County and Smithville, Scott hit for 19 and 20, which were close to half of her team's points.

"She can shoot (from) anywhere, any place, anytime, and it goes in mostly," Kisker said.

Scott still has a hard time believing this complete turnaround after last season's dismal start.

"I didn't think we'd get this far, considering what we went through last year, but I think we can win districts," she said.

One goal in mind

Next week has been circled on the 'Hounds' calendars since they began training last spring. Now, time has caught up with them and three games stand in the way of the goal an entire season's been about.

The magnitude of next week isn't lost on Kisker. "These are going to be the hardest practices we've had all year. We've got to play our best ball at the end ... This is what it all comes down to."

Emily Kisker, sophomore

ball at the end. This is what it all comes down to."

Maryville draws Trenton again in the first round, only now the seeds are reversed, as Maryville sits at No. 2.

Hageman's 10 to 11-player rotation must all play their roles well, but he doesn't downplay how important his two leading scorers are to claiming Maryville's first district championship in five years, of course 2003's team had 12 losses in its state-qualifying season.

"These two do a great job for this team, but it's going to come down to the 10 or 11 girls that we put on the floor," he said.

"It's going to come down to more than just Emily and Meridee, but we hope Emily and Meridee have a lot to say about it."

STATE: Team ends year with 55-point showing

Continued from B1

Late in the match, it looked as if overtime would be necessary to decide the outcome, but Archer wouldn't let Swarts get the best of him twice.

The senior scored a tie-breaking escape with three seconds to go, clinching the 5-4 decision and the bronze medal.

"That's an unbelievable finish for him," Drake said. "He had a little bit of a letdown in the semifinals, but other than that, I thought he had a great state tournament."

Sophomore Jacob Zech (171) won his first-round match and his first wrestling match, while senior Dakota Merrill lost his first-round match, but won two wrestling matches.

Ryan Phillippe's (112) tournament took a different route as he was disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct in his wrestling match.

"He just got a little too emotional," Drake said. "He just

wanted to win so bad, and he lost control a little bit and threw an elbow at the kid (Merrill's Matthew Smith). It did not hit him, but it still was an unsportsmanlike act, causing a disqualification."

The 'Hounds placed 11th overall, a little behind out of the Top 10.

Drake said the team progressed significantly this season and hopes to continue that momentum into the next, in only losing three seniors (Archer, Dakota Merrill and Luke Lancaster).

"I said earlier, we wanted to pick up right where we left off last year, and we did a pretty good job of that," Drake said. "We had a little bit of a letdown in the middle of the season, but that was my decision when we held the wrestlers out and gave them time to rest."

"Our team came along tremendously throughout the season and we want to build on that going into next year."



SOPHOMORE EMILY KISKER looks for a late-game steal in the Spoofhounds' 56-49 loss to the Co-MEC Champion Savannah Savages Feb. 14. Maryville (No. 2) faces No. 7 Trenton in the first round of Class 3 Districts, Monday night, at 8 p.m. in Cameron.

Scott and Kisker do have two more years to achieve this goal, but neither thinks that's good enough. Both want to win now for the two seniors who knew nothing but losing before this tide-turning year.

"It would mean a lot to us to win it for the seniors because they haven't even very many games, and it would mean a lot if they won districts in one of their years," Scott said. "They just haven't had the team to do it. This year we can do it."

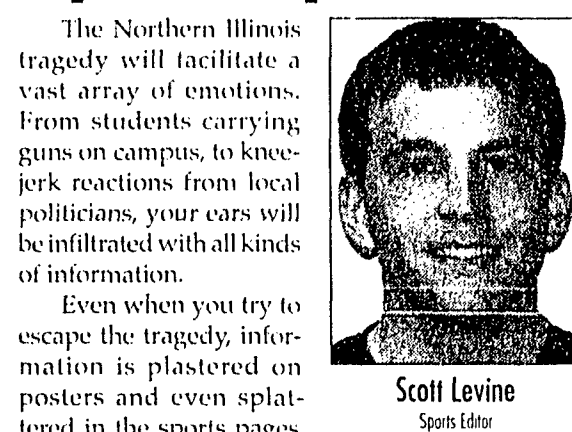
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Sports provide best relief for troubled times



Scott Levine
Sports Editor

The Illinois tragedy will facilitate a vast array of emotions. From students coming from campus, to knee-jerk reactions from local politicians, your ears will be polluted with all kinds of information.

Even when you try to escape the tragedy, information is plastered on posters and even splattered in the sports pages.

So when tragedy enters my world (the sports world), how do sports deal with such adversity?

It's simple. The greatest medicine for tragedy is sports.

Sports serve as an escape back to daily life. It's funny that people try escaping their ritualistic lives through alcohol, drugs and video games every day, but when tragedy

strikes, people want nothing more than to return to daily life.

There's nothing more mundane and routine than sports. Like it or not, sports are basically the one constant in our lives. Teams play a certain amount of games, then go to the playoffs and then a champion is crowned.

Every other team is awarded some secondary prize through bowl wins, draft picks or a simple morale boost. If your team loses a big game or something catastrophic happens like missing out

on a BCS bowl, the sun will rise tomorrow, and you'll still be a fan of that team.

It's simple. You're nothing but a bandwagon fan. In that case, you shouldn't even be watching sports.

For me, I have seen nothing but heartache with my favorite teams from the 1998 NFC Championship debacle involving

my beloved Minnesota Vikings, to the NCAA tournament - a job my Iowa State Cyclones endured against Michigan State.

These losses proved to me that I would survive. But those losses didn't make me appreciate the multitude of sport's importance. No, I became aware of that in 2005.

People who know me, know I love the Chicago White Sox. In fact, my whole family bleeds black and silver, and we had endured mediocrity Royals fans know nothing about.

Well, at the start of August 2005, the Sox were sailing and it looked like this could be the year. But then the Indians couldn't lose, and the Sox couldn't win. During that rough sports month, the Sox almost gave up a 15-game lead, and my family endured more pain when my uncle was diagnosed with melanoma cancer.

At that point, my family thought life couldn't be crueler. First the White

Sox, then my uncle. As the dog days of August transformed into September, it became apparent the Sox would make the playoffs.

They made the playoffs, and went on one of the greatest postseason runs, going 11-1 en route to a World Series championship. I had never experienced a championship, but this was extra special for not just me, but for my family.

When I look back on that historic run, I won't think about how happy I was, but how sports gave a family grieving a chance to escape into something we had never experienced.

In essence, that's what sports are all about. Sports keep kids out of trouble and seem to be the best way to deal with tragic events. Hopefully, those families feeling life's hardships at Northern Illinois, can escape this horrible situation, and return to some semblance of daily life through sports.

POWER RANKINGS

MEC Boys

Team

1. Benton
2. Smithville
3. Lafayette
4. Maryville
5. Platte County
6. Cameron
7. Chillicothe
8. Savannah

Today and Friday's games:

1. Benton: vs. Lafayette*
2. Smithville: vs. Platte County*
3. Lafayette: vs. Benton*
4. Maryville: vs. Trenton (Tues.)
5. Platte County: vs. Smithville*
6. Cameron: vs. Brookfield (Tues.)
7. Chillicothe: Season over
8. Savannah: Season over

* = Wednesday game, results not available at press time

MEC Girls

Team

1. Benton
2. Platte County
3. Savannah
4. Smithville
5. Maryville
6. Cameron
7. Chillicothe
8. Lafayette

Up Next:

1. Benton: vs. Smithville*
2. Platte County: vs. Savannah*
3. Savannah: vs. Platte County*
4. Smithville: vs. Benton*
5. Maryville: vs. Trenton (Mon.)
6. Cameron: vs. Brookfield
7. Chillicothe: Season over
8. Lafayette: Season over

* = Wednesday game, results not available at press time

SPORTS STATE PICKS

* We at the Northwest Missourian do not acknowledge the NBA as an actual sports organization. Therefore, no NBA picks.

Scott's Picks Prediction Record (10-6)

NCAA Lock
Georgia Mason at Ohio — Georgia Mason I'm going for something different and picking two road locks. I may be insane, but from what I'm told, I'm not. And Georgia Mason made the elite eight a couple of years ago, so how off-the-wall could this pick be anyway?

NCAA Lock
Arizona State at Washington — Arizona St. Arizona State needs to string together some wins as much as I need to so these yahoos can't beat me. The Sun Devils should take care of business, but if they don't, I will rely on my colleagues bad picks to win.

NCAA Upset Alert
Arizona at Washington St. — Arizona No Lute Olson, no problem. The Cougar's home court isn't the best of business. Therefore, the 'Cats take care of business.

NCAA Upset Alert
New Mexico at Utah — Utah The Lobos are pretty good this year, but there's no way they win on the Utes home court. Keith Van Horn and Michael Doleac come back for this big win.

Brett's Picks Prediction Record (9-7)

NCAA Lock
Drake at Butler — Butler Drake celebrated the Missouri Valley Conference regular season championship last weekend. Something tells me they will still be celebrating as Butler rolls over the other Bulldogs.

NCAA Lock
Kansas State at Baylor — Kansas State I'm fairly confident that K-State didn't lay an egg at Nebraska, but the Wildcats are catching the Bears at the right time.

NCAA Upset Alert
Tennessee at Memphis — Tennessee Who, before the season, predicted this would be a No. 1 vs. No. 2 game? Not me. The Tigers are close to the worst free-throw shooting team in college basketball, and it will come back to bite them in this game.

NCAA Upset Alert
Navy at Army — Army Navy at Army — Army I'm through picking games in the Ivy League, more specifically, Harvard, who deeply disappoints me. Army is still struggling. I hear former Army, Indiana and Texas Tech coach, Bobby Knight is available.

Sam's Picks Prediction Record (8-8)

NCAA Lock
UConn at Villanova — UConn At a "Pillar freakin'" brought it against Notre Dame and USC last week.

NCAA Lock
Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech — Va. Tech That trainer's back on the sideline and continues to run his knives-for-toys operation. Let's hope the Yellow Jackets don't exploit it for their own gain like the Hurricanes did.

NCAA Upset Alert
Sacred Heart at Quinnipiac — Paenon The 'Pacs back, my friend. DeMario Anderson is fired up after Wagner's point guard shot in this game. It won't be a good week to be a Pioneer.

NCAA Upset Alert
New Orleans at Denver — Denver The Broncos are having a draft class of '06 party. Dumervil, Marshall and Tony Scheffler, are said to be attending. Jay Cutler will sadly not be in attendance as he is having to go to Vegas with Jason Walker in order to soothe his enormous ego. Nevertheless, these Broncos will seize the moment.

Marc's Picks Prediction Record (11-5)

NCAA Lock
Marquette at Villanova — Marquette I know very little about either of these teams. I had Missouri to beat Colorado, but Stalin three columns to my left said I couldn't. I hope Marquette wins by 50.

NCAA Lock
Oklahoma at Texas — Texas The Longhorns are upset material, but I'm hoping D.J. Augustin can make a Carmelo Anthony-like run and push Texas to some wins late in the season.

NCAA Upset Alert
Syracuse at Notre Dame — Syracuse The Orange can stop Notre Dame's Luke Harangody won't be able to score down low against a stingy 2-3 zone. Bocheim won't let Syracuse get screwed out of the tournament again.

NCAA Upset Alert
Texas at Kansas State — K-State Scott is trying to sabotage this competition by telling me I can't pick this game. Luckily, my boy Sam Robinson has my back. Bessley gives the 'Cats a chance.

WHAT TO WATCH

Scott's TV Picks

Friday
Davidson at Winthrop, 6 p.m. ESPN2 — Watch Triple D's Davidson squad beat up on Winthrop. I can smell March Madness coming around the corner.

Days rating (3 of 5)

4444

Saturday

Connecticut at Villanova, 11 a.m. ESPN — Villanova needs a win to improve its resume for the tournament.

Days rating (3 of 5)

4444

Sunday

Major League, 11 a.m. TBS — Great movie. Even after a long Saturday night, Sam might wake up for this one.

Days rating (4 of 5)

4444

Marc's TV Picks

Friday
Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift, 12:30 p.m. HBO — This cinematic masterpiece makes me appreciate other movies.

Days rating (4 of 5)

4444

Saturday

Oklahoma at Texas, 2:30 p.m. ABC — I need Texas to show up. Of all the games I picked, Texas scares me the most because they're dependent on D.J. Augustin.

Days rating (4 of 5)

4444

Sunday

Wisconsin at Ohio St., 3 p.m. CBS — Go Badgers! I quite literally bleed cheese so I'm rooting for Wisconsin.

Days rating (2 of 5)

4444

Sam's TV Picks

Friday
Saved by the Bell, 7 a.m. TBS "A Question of Ethics." — Mr. Morris, can you explain Kant's five principles of ethics? Zack: No, I Kant. There's plenty more where that came from.

Days rating (2 of 5)

4444

Saturday

Vladimir Kitzchko vs. Sultan Ibrahimov, 9:58 HBO — The first heavyweight unification bout since Holyfield-Lewis II.

Days rating (4 of 5)

4444

Sunday

Syracuse at Notre Dame, 1 p.m. CBS — Win this and the 'Cuse are in. The committee can't screw them like they did last year. I'm still not over that.

Days rating (3 of 5)

4444

Brett's TV Picks

Friday
Boston Celtics at Phoenix Suns, ESPN, 9:30 p.m. — This game is a potential NBA Finals preview.

Days rating (3 of 5)

4444

Saturday

No. 2 Tennessee at No. 1 Memphis, ESPN, 8 p.m. — If you cried this as a game of the year, then congratulations, because I wouldn't have envisioned this as even a game of the week.

Days rating (4 of 5)

4444

Sunday

Wake Forest at No. 3 North Carolina, ESPN, 5:30 p.m. — Wake Forest is turning into a scary team after knocking off Duke.

Days rating (3 of 5)

4444

AT YOUR LEISURE

TOP PICKS

Top 5 picks of the week

By Sydney Moore
Entertainment Reporter

■ This week in theaters — "Vantage Point," starring Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker and Matthew Fox opens in theaters Friday. The action film tells the story of an attempted assassination of the president of the United States while he is on a visit in Spain. The twist of this story is the fact that it is told from the viewpoints of five different individuals, who may have seen something leading to the arrest of the attempted assassin.

■ Available on DVD — "American Gangster," starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe hit shelves Tuesday as a 2-disc special edition DVD. The action-packed flick is about Frank Lucas, (Washington) who takes it into his own hands to become the next importer of heroin in Manhattan. Lucas uses a very unique way of transporting the drugs into the United States from Southeast Asia, but Detective Richie Roberts (Crowe) is the head of the narcotics force and works his hardest to stop Lucas from successfully smuggling the drugs into the states. The Oscar-nominated film is based on a true story.

■ Support a local band — The Josephine Collective, a band from the outskirts of Kansas City, Mo., is quickly rising to stardom. The six-man group signed to Warner Bros. Records in October 2006 and has been in and out of the studio since. Their EP, "Living," is scheduled to be out in July and the boys are working hard to promote their music with upcoming shows in Lawrence, Kan., Park Hill, Mo. and Arlington, Texas. Check out their self-proclaimed progressive-pop sound on their Myspace at Myspace.com/josephinecollective.

STROLLER

Your Man hates personal stories

Throughout the week, I have a lot of these annoying things called classes. In these classes sit annoying beings called students. In these students lay empty spaces that in most people would be occupied by a brain.

But being stupid is OK. Stupid people are a fact of the world. I would, in fact, count myself among them.

What I can't stand are the stupid people who feel the need to offer their own personal anecdote routinely throughout classes.

Do we care about your life story, nontraditional student with 14 kids, all of who, in your mind, relate to the topic in class? No.

Do we care about your having to wash your boyfriend's laundry as an example of how women were oppressed in the 1800s, girl in one of my history classes? Absolutely not. But you're still going to tell us anyway.

Every class on this campus has



The Stroller

in seventh grade). I'm not saying people shouldn't participate. If you have a discussion-based class, by all means, discuss the chapter or topic at hand. But don't ruin the learning with an anecdote about how much you love music and how that relates to the topic ... it doesn't.

In the end, it all comes down to the teachers. Day one, they need to walk in a write in gigantic letters on the board: NO PERSONAL ANECDOTES. Then, if their students break the rule, punish them with relentless verbal abuse until their self-esteem is so low, they don't believe they're worthy to tell stories anymore.

If people want to tell personal anecdotes, they should get an anonymous column just like the rest of us.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

MOVIE REVIEW

"No Country for Old Men" dazzles editor with complex themes

By Brian Johnson
Assistant Features Editor

"No Country for Old Men" should be shown in classrooms.

If there was ever a movie that showed the decline of civilization and the ugly world we live in, this latest masterpiece by the world-renowned Coen brothers is a prime candidate.

Inspired by the 2005 novel of the same name, "No Country for Old Men" is a journey through the lives of three men as they each reach their appropriate destiny, no matter how dark.

The central character is Llewellyn Moss, played by Josh Brolin. Moss is a Vietnam War veteran who recovers \$2 million in a drug deal gone wrong. As he must face the issue of stealing money and providing for his wife, he must also decide whether it's his destiny to face death because of his actions or if he can decide his own fate.

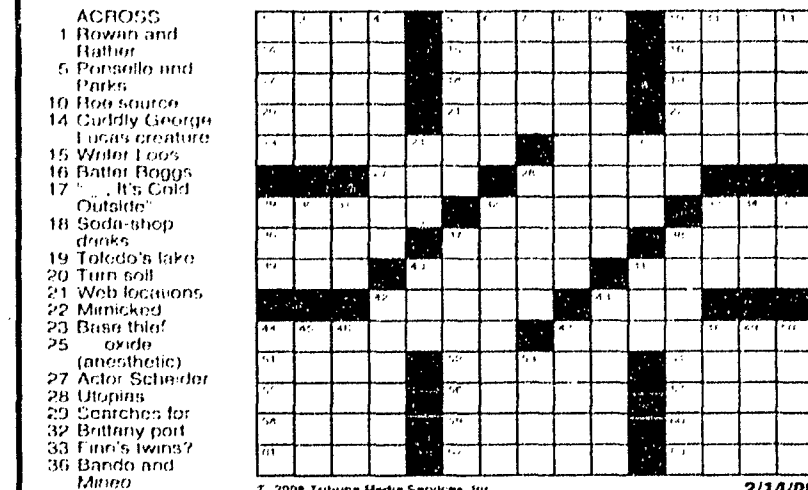
The most important character in this film is Anton Chigurh, played by relative newcomer Javier Bardem. He is a hired assassin assigned to recover stolen drug money and a bonafide psychopath trapped in his own world of self-imposed

morals that no sane person can comprehend. Bardem is nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his amazing portrayal.

The amazing Academy Award-winning Tommy Lee Jones plays Ed Bell, the sheriff of the town who must deal with finding Chigurh and also struggles with the changing world around him as he gets older.

There are many recurring themes in this film that are as important as the characters. The characters must deal with their fate, actions, chance, free will and how each theme is just as important as

Crossword



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2/14/08

ACROSS

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2. Pasadena and Denver
3. Here, there and everywhere
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Hollywood's BIGGEST night

The award for Best Picture goes to ...



"No Country for Old Men"



"Juno"



"Michael Clayton"



"Atonement"



"There Will Be Blood"

Here are the main Oscar hopefuls.

Best Actor in a Leading Role:

George Clooney - "Michael Clayton"
Daniel Day-Lewis - "There Will Be Blood"
Johnny Depp - "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"
Tommy Lee Jones - "In the Valley of Elah"
Viggo Mortensen - "Eastern Promises"

Best Writing (Original Screenplay):

"Juno"
"Lars and the Real Girl"
"Michael Clayton"
"Ratatouille"
"The Savages"

Best Actor in a Supporting Role:

Casey Affleck - "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"
Javier Bardem - "No Country for Old Men"
Phillip Seymour Hoffman - "Charlie Wilson's War"
Hal Holbrook - "Into the Wild"
Tom Wilkinson - "Michael Clayton"

Best Actress in a Supporting Role:

Cate Blanchett - "I'm Not There"
Ruby Dee - "American Gangster"
Saoirse Ronan - "Atonement"
Amy Ryan - "Gone Baby Gone"
Tilda Swinton - "Michael Clayton"

Best Actress in a Leading Role:

Cate Blanchett - "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"
Julie Christie - "Away From Her"
Marion Cotillard - "La Vie En Rose"
Laura Linney - "The Savages"
Ellen Page - "Juno"

Take a look at a few different honors, in our opinion.

Best picture:

Brian's pick: "No Country for Old Men"
Sydney's pick: "Across the Universe"
Whitney's pick: "Into the Wild"

Best threequel:

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"

Best summer blockbuster:

"Transformers"

Worst threequel:

"Spiderman 3"

Best coming of age movie:

"Superbad"

Best actor:

Johnny Depp for "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Cutest chick flick:

"Waitress"

Most unnecessary visuals:

"The Heartbreak Kid"

Best actress:

Ellen Page for "Juno"

Best animated film:

"Ratatouille"

Best action movie:

"300"

Worst picture of the year:

"Epic Movie"

Oldest actor who just needs to go away:

Sylvester Stallone

Cheesiest soundtrack:

"Music and Lyrics"

Most inspiring movie:

"Freedom Writers"



Live at 7 p.m., Sunday, on ABC
Hosted by Jon Stewart
E! Online's Red Carpet Coverage
begins at 5 p.m.